

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF JORGE LUIS GARCIA PEREZ "ANTUNEZ" AND YRIS PEREZ AGUILERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Senator BOB MENENDEZ gave an important speech last Thursday, December 10, opposing concessions to the dictatorship of Cuba.

In his speech Senator MENENDEZ read out loud an open letter which had been sent by one of Cuba's true heroes—a giant of the resistance to the Cuban tyranny—Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez," here photographed with his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, a letter to the titular Cuban dictator, Raul Castro, on Tuesday, December 8.

"Mr. Raul Castro," Antunez wrote, "for months now my wife Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera and I have been kept in extrajudicial house arrest by your political police. Mr. Dictator, let me ask you some questions that may help clarify some doubts for those fellow countrymen of mine who may at some point have had hope your government would reduce the repression or even carry out democratic openings.

"What do you feel when you incite or allow people who call themselves men to beat and drag through the streets women like Damaris Moya Portieles, Maria Diaz Rondon, Ana Alfonso Arteaga, Sara Marta Fonseca, Yris Perez and now more recently the blogger Yoani Sanchez?

"How can you sleep after your subordinates cruelly beat, more than once, Idania Yanez Contreras while she was pregnant?

"How can you and your government talk about the battle of ideas, when ideas constantly face repression with beatings and arrests and years of imprisonment?

"Maybe your followers will not dare respond, but I who am in the long list of those who do not fear you, will answer:

"You act like that because you are a cruel man, insensitive to the pain and suffering of others; because, loyal to your anti-democratic and dictatorial vocation, you are convinced that dictatorships such as yours can only sustain themselves by fear and torture, and that even the most minimal of openings can end the only thing that interests you: staying in power.

"And finally, speaking of my case in particular, I will respond to you without the need to first ask of you the motives for such focused repression against my person."

Antunez, by the way, Madam Speaker, now 45 years old, was a political prisoner for 17 years until 2007.

He continued to write, "Your government and its lackey-repressive forces cannot forgive my two great and only crimes. First, that for almost two decades of torture and cruelties during my unjust and severe imprisonment, you were not able to break my dignity and my position as a political prisoner. Second, because despite all the violence and harassment—and above all the risk of returning to prison—I have decided to not abandon my country, where I will continue fighting for a change I believe to be as necessary as it is inevitable."

Signed, in the City of Placetas, by Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez", Tuesday, December 8.

On Friday, December 11, Antunez and his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, she is a heroine, were violently arrested. The doctrine of Fidel Castro's hero Adolf Hitler was again devoutly followed: "The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence."

"This is kidnapping," yelled Yris. "Long live human rights," shouted Antunez as they were being beaten and taken away by the Castros' political police on Friday.

I condemn the brutal arrest of these two heroes by the Castros' cowardly thugs. The days of the Castros' racist totalitarian tyranny in Cuba are coming to an end. Those who have collaborated with the violence and brutality of the racist regime will face justice and eternal shame. Antunez, Yris Perez Aguilera, her brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, Oscar Elias Biscet, Darsi Ferrer and many other heroic political prisoners of Cuba will be elected the leaders of free Cuba. That change is as necessary as it is inevitable. Because of heroes like Antunez and Yris Perez Aguilera, the day of freedom in Cuba is approaching.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEMORY WALK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the success of the Miami-Dade Memory Walk sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

This event called on volunteers of all ages to be champions in the fight against the terrible disease of Alzheimer's, which impacts more than 5 million Americans and their families. Over 2,200 people participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in my home county of Miami-Dade, and their efforts raised over \$130,000 for research into a cure.

I was encouraged by the wonderful outpouring of support and participation from our community in South Florida. I know from countless personal stories, as well as from my own family, just how devastating this disease of Alzheimer's is.

My mom, Amanda Ros, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's over a year ago. While I am blessed to have tremendous family support during this difficult time for her, I recognize how important it is to have organizations, such as the Alzheimer's Association, that can step in and provide families with guidance on how to care for their loved one.

Tony Friguls is another individual who knows this terrible disease all too well. He participated in the Memory Walk in support of his wife of 37 years, Maria, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 4 years ago at the age of 55. Since that day, her life, Tony's life and the lives of their children, grandchildren and, indeed, their entire family, has never been the same. It has changed forever.

For Tony and his wife, there was no more hope to reach retirement, to travel, to enjoy life. Instead, they were both forced to retire from their jobs in order to cope with the new daily challenges of Alzheimer's. Determined to help his wife, Tony made a decision to help raise community awareness for this disease. His team for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Baba's Bunch, included over 400 members. He is also involved in an essay-writing contest in public schools to raise student awareness about Alzheimer's.

Today, Tony's wife is 59 years old. She can hardly speak. She cannot even sign her own name, and she is not who she used to be.

He continues the fight against Alzheimer's in honor of his wife and all of those who suffer and cope with this terrible disease. Unfortunately, as we all know, Alzheimer's has no survivors. It destroys brain cells. It causes memory changes, erratic behaviors and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully takes away a person's identity, a person's ability to connect with others, to think, to eat, to talk, to walk, to find your way home. There is no treatment, no cure, no way to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

This disease is widespread and growing. Every 70 seconds, Madam Speaker, someone new develops Alzheimer's, and it is not only the person diagnosed that is impacted, but also their family members. One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's, an even higher number of those aged 85 and

older, and 87 percent of that time it is the family members who are the primary caregivers.

The emotional stress of care giving is so high, and about one-third of caregivers develop symptoms of depression. Care giving also takes a financial toll, with many individuals having to quit work, reduce their work hours, or take time off because of their responsibilities.

Madam Speaker, we must continue the fight against this devastating disease before it claims more lives, more lives of our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers and our spouses. I again encourage all in our community to show solidarity in the fight we must win against Alzheimer's.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MASSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MASSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. ING-LIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, the report by the chief actuary of Medicare is in and, as we thought, it shows real problems with the idea of expanding Medicare coverage to lower age groups. This summer, I had an opportunity to do a bunch of town hall meetings, and in those meetings we discussed the fact that what we're talking about really, in the public option, is adding more people to something like the SS Medicare which is already sinking in the harbor. But now over in the other body, there is specifically a proposal to literally add more people to the sinking SS Medicare in the harbor.

And so in the last several days, the chief actuary has provided a report that really should stop us in our tracks and cause us to realize that that's no solution, to add people to a program that is already unsustainable.

What that chief actuary of Medicare reports—and there are several items in his report, obviously, but one of them is the report cautions that savings needed to extend the trust fund cannot simultaneously be used to extend other health insurance coverage. In other words, if you're going to save money, you can't simultaneously expand coverage under the program. It seems fairly obvious to the folks I was talking to in town hall meetings. Unfortunately here in Washington, it seems not to be comprehended. We seem to think that here in Washington we can continue to add people to a program even though the people that are currently on the program have it on a trajectory that can't be sustained.

The actuary also points out that actually the Senate bill would increase

the cost of health care; would not decrease the cost of health care. In fact, total spending on health care would increase by \$234 billion between 2010 and 2019. Also, total Federal expenditures on health care would increase \$365.8 billion during that period. The bill would extend coverage to 33 million Americans by 2019 but would still leave 24 million people uninsured, 5 million of which may be illegal immigrants. And the number of people with employer-sponsored health care would drop by 5 million by 2019.

What the chief actuary is telling us is that the solution that's being proposed is not a solution. In order to solve the challenge of Medicare, you have to figure out some way to change the underlying behavior. You have to figure out a way to get the patient invested in their care and caring how much it costs. That's what we've got to do for Medicare, Medicaid and for private insurance.

There are some very creative things going on in the private sector that are toward this end, to have this objective of changing the underlying behavior. What we're discussing here in the Congress under the majority here in the House and the apparent majority over in the Senate is not something that will change behavior. What it will do is simply add more people to a program that is already unsustainable. So rather than saving money, as the President suggests it will, actually what will happen, as the chief actuary says, is the costs rise; not everybody gets covered. It's clearly not a solution.

So what we have to do is scrap the current plans and go back to something that might actually work: by getting a change in behavior, by figuring out how to get people covered, by figuring out how to do medical malpractice reform and by getting 50-State competition among private insurance companies. Those, Madam Speaker, are the solutions we want to see in this country. We must stop this false solution that's being offered now.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure again to be the anchor for the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour. I want to thank our chairwoman, BARBARA LEE, for talking with us the last week or two about jobs and how important jobs is going to be for this nation.

I would at this time like to welcome and ask our Chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE from California, to please now join me. She has directed us in so many different ways over this year, I am just especially pleased to be a part of this caucus.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

Let me take a moment to thank Congresswoman FUDGE for really consistently raising the alarm and setting forth what the agenda is every Monday night of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is an agenda that speaks not only to the issues in communities of color in the Congressional Black Caucus but issues which really will allow for the American Dream to be real for all.

So thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, and I know you come from a State where the unemployment rate is critical. People are suffering, housing foreclosure rates are off the scale, and especially in the African American community. Communities of color have been hardest hit, I know, in Ohio. So thank you so much for your leadership.

Let me just talk for a few minutes about our economy. We all know that the economic security of all Americans is extremely fragile. Communities of color, especially the African American community and Latino communities, have been disproportionately hit by this recession. Last week, we released a letter which we forwarded to President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER which outlined our priorities as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. We are continuing to work with House leaders and the administration to ensure that our priorities for job creation and economic growth are included in a jobs package which should be finalized hopefully before Congress adjourns this year.

After the release of our letter, it was interesting to read some of the bloggers, some of the pundits. They actually argued that targeted relief was unneeded. And what we propose is not based on race. I just want to be clear on that. It's based on need. We want to ensure that our resources are targeted to areas of greatest hardship.

For example, here are some of the facts regarding the African American community that are indisputable:

The unemployment rate for African Americans is nearly twice that of whites. 49.4 percent of African Americans 16 to 19 years of age were unemployed in November.

Nearly 28 percent of African Americans received food aid compared to 15 percent of Latinos and 8 percent of whites.

Recent African American college graduates are unemployed at higher rates than their white counterparts and African American workers remain unemployed an average of 5 weeks longer than the rest of Americans.

More than 24 percent of African Americans are living below the poverty line and African Americans are 55 percent more likely to be unemployed than white Americans.

African Americans have 2.3 times the infant mortality rate as non-Hispanic whites. They are four times as likely to die as infants due to complications related to low birthweight as compared to non-Hispanic white infants.